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NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

Miss Georgia Fyle, a British war nurse, was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Government, for distinguished bravery under fire. She went to the front line trenches to give aid to the severely wounded poilus. When she left the French headquarters in Flanders, where the decoration was given, she passed out under an arch of swords held by the soldiers.

In the beginning of the winter of 1915-1916 the question of dealing with cases of trench feet was taken up actively by the officers of the first and second Canadian divisions. Preventive measures were explained to the officers and men. The result was that very few cases occurred and this winter there have been practically none. Men who had once been victims could not again be employed in winter service in the trenches. Such splendid work has been done by the Canadian dentists that for the last two years every case requiring dental treatment has been attended to within the corps area. During December there were only two cases of typhoid. Owing to typhoid and paratyphoid inoculation the sick wastage in this corps is the lowest in the army.

It is encouraging to note that contrary to the general impression created by the emphasis which is laid on the awful mutilation of present-day warfare, the great majority of the soldiers returned to Canada unfit for further military service have been able to return to their previous occupations and carry on in civil life. The number who must be educated in a new line of work represents only five per cent of those who have come back. These figures are taken from the vocational files of the Military Hospitals Commission, whose headquarters are at Ottawa.

A gift of 20,000 pounds of jam was sent for the convalescent soldiers in the western Canadian hospitals and sanatoria. It was presented by the Doukhobors, the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood, at Brilliant, British Columbia. War is prohibited by the Doukhobor faith, and exemption from military duty was promised its followers by the Canadian Government when they came from Russia. Like the Quakers, who are doing their work in reconstruction service, this western Community is eager to succor the wounded. The fruit all came from the Kootenay district, and the jam was made in a model factory noted for the purity of its products.

Violet M. Ryley is the Organizing Dietitian for the convalescent hospitals.

It is reported that an appeal has been circulated among mutilated German officers and soldiers asking them to return the Iron Crosses presented to them, as a protest against the same honor being conferred upon home warriors and leaders of the Fatherland party. It is said that this appeal met with a large response, 1,300 being returned from Berlin alone on the first day.

The women of Munich organized a collection of hair, the work being undertaken by the German Navy League. Over 300 pounds were obtained by women sacrificing their tresses. The hair is used to make driving belts for U-boats. This is a win-the-war offering that it would be hard to equal.

Many ingenious devices have been resorted to in order to smuggle food from Hungary into Vienna, which is only a short journey from the border. The high crowns of ladies' hats turned out to be hollow cardboard boxes containing eggs. Babies in arms, carried most carefully and lovingly while the mothers passed the officials, the little faces daintily covered with lace veils, revealed when examined the head of a large wax doll, the long clothes concealing a hare, a leg of mutton, a plucked and trussed goose or duck. Milk was fairly plentiful at one time and lard very scarce, so lard was melted and poured into large milk cans and when cold a small quantity of milk sufficient to cover the lard, was poured over the top.

Lawrence Cavell, Edith Cavell's nephew, aged 19, is said to have enlisted in the American army after having been rejected three times. As soon as he heard of his aunt's death at the hands of the Huns he tried to join the Canadian army, but was refused on account of his youth and deficiency in weight. When the United States entered the war, he again offered himself, but was told he was too small. He was at last accepted as a signaller. He is eager to be transferred to the Flying Corps, so he can drop bombs on the Boches from the air, and so avenge his aunt's murder.

The first ambulance train built in England for the American army has been handed over to the American Expeditionary Force. It consists of 16 cars, cost \$200,000 and is designed to carry 393 patients. It is painted in glossy white enamel, with polished mahogany window frames and fittings. Water tanks built into the roof carry 2835 gallons, there is a heating apparatus in the floor, and a self-contained hot water circulator for use when it is detached from the engine.